

# Keep Gasoline From Your Drinking Water



Gasoline is one of the most dangerous products commonly found around the home, yet people sometimes use it and store it with little care. Some of the more toxic chemicals in gasoline that have been found in drinking water include benzene, toluene, and MtBE. Even very small gasoline spills can contaminate your drinking water wells or a public water supply.

## How to Protect Your Drinking Water from Gasoline

### Avoid spilling gasoline on the ground, especially near wells

- Don't top off your fuel tank when filling your lawn mower, snow blower, etc.
- Keep refueling and engine work away from water supply wells. Do the work over a concrete floor or similar barrier, and immediately clean up any gas or oil spills.
- Don't drain gasoline from these machines onto the ground.
- Don't ever use gasoline to burn brush.

### Avoid spilling gasoline in lakes, ponds, and rivers

- Fill portable tanks from outboard boat engines on shore, not near water. If you own a larger boat, make sure it has no-spill tank vents.
- Keep special gasoline-absorbing pads on your gas-powered boat; know how to use them.
- Refuel snowmobiles and ice augers onshore; do not take gasoline storage tanks onto ice-covered ponds.

### Store gasoline properly

- Use a clearly-labelled container made for gasoline, with a spout to avoid spills.
- Keep gasoline containers in a dry, well-ventilated shed or detached garage away from water supply wells. Don't keep metal gasoline cans on a dirt floor for extended periods.

### Dispose of waste gasoline properly

- Handle old or dirty gasoline as hazardous waste. Bring it to a household hazardous waste collection site in a proper gasoline container.

## What To Do If A Petroleum Spill Occurs

First, stop the discharge and prevent any further spillage. Then contact your local fire department. If the spill impacts any surface or groundwater, or if the spill is greater than 25 gallons, you must also notify the N.H. Department of Environmental Services at 271-3644, or the N.H. State Police at 1-800-346-4009.

